The Great Pacolet Flood

Album No. 6
This is a view of the Flat the day before the Flood. The end of Mill No. 1 can be seen in the background over the roof of the church. The photographer was standing about where the Town Hall is located today. This is a very different view of the Flat that existed after the Flood.
The Flood did not happen until 1903. However, the level of the Pacolet River often rose to high levels many times before and after that. The narrow river valley made high water a serious problem as seen in this picture, two years before the devastating Flood. Note the “old style” houses in the background across the river.
This is the covered bridge that was destroyed in the Flood. This picture was made at a time of very high water but it is not known if it was during the Flood of 1903 or during another time of high water like that shown on page 3. Mills No. 1 and No. 2 are shown in the background.
This is a photo of the Flat area during the Flood. There seems to be no trace left of the covered bridge shown on page 4. Like the photo on page 2, it was taken from about where the Town Hall is today.
Another photo of the Flat area during the Flood. Part of Mills No. 1 and No. 2 are still standing. The large number of box shaped objects floating in the water are cotton bales.
A photo of the Flat area after the Flood. This photograph was taken at ground level generally from in front of where the Girl’s Club was once located.
Another photo of the Flat area after the Flood. The existing cloth room is located about where the group of people, the tree and house are in this picture.
A different photo of the Flat area after the Flood. This was taken from near where the Fire Dept. and Rescue Buildings are now located. The road up Hotel Hill can be seen in the upper center of the picture. Basically the same view as it looks like today can be seen on page 11.
Another photo of the Flat area after the Flood. This was also taken from near where the Fire Dept. and Rescue Buildings are now located. The old school and the road up Hotel Hill can be seen in the upper center of the picture. Somewhat the same view as it looks like today can be seen on page 11.
Generally, the same view as shown on pages 9 and 10 as it looks today. A tremendous amount of fill dirt was hauled into this area after the Flood. (See photo on page 19). This raised the ground level several feet.
Mill No. 3 (The Old Mill) as it looked before the Flood.
The **Old Mill (No. 3)** as it looked at the beginning of the **Flood**. The rising water has already covered the dam and submerged some of the lower floor.
The Old Mill (No. 3) after the Flood. The building has been severely damaged and the entire corner of the mill has been carried away.
The **New Mill (No. 5)** was built on the site of **Mills No. 1 and 2**. It opened in 1907. Additional photos of the **Mill** are shown in **Album 3**.
Another view of the New Mill (No. 5) when it opened in 1907. This also shows part of the iron bridge built to replace the covered bridge. Even though it looks similar, this is not the same bridge some of us remember from the 1940’s and 50’s. A photo of this bridge being built is shown on page 2 of Album 3. This bridge was destroyed by the high water of 1908. It was temporarily replaced by the swinging bridge shown on page 18.
A close up of part of the **New Mill (No. 5)** and the new iron bridge. Additional photos of the **Mill** and this bridge being built are shown in **Album 3**.
The iron bridge built at the same time as the new Mill (No.5) in 1907 was washed away during the high water of 1908. This temporary swinging foot bridge was built so that workers on the north side of the river could go to work. The swinging bridge seems to be built in about the location where the covered bridge had been before the Flood.
This picture is somewhat of a mystery. The bridge parts on the right are the remains of the iron bridge built for the New Mill (No. 5). It was washed away only year later in the high water of 1908. The big concrete pier on the left was built to support the iron bridge that was used until 1953. The Pacolet horse now sits on this pier. A temporary swinging bridge was built to use until the other bridge was completed but it is not seen in this picture (page 18). Note also the tremendous amount of fill dirt being used to fill in the low spot where the Filling Station was later located.
This bridge was built in 1908 and used until 1953. The Pacolet horse now stands on the pier that remains from the bridge. Note the “old style” houses in the background. Real horses were still being used to do work around the outside of the mill, note the one standing in the distance, to the left of the bridge pier.
There were periods of very high water before and after the [Flood](#). These photos were taken during the late 1940’s or early 1950’s.

Upper left - looking upriver at the [New Mill](#) and the dam from the [old bridge](#).

Upper right - looking down river at the [Methodist Church](#) and [iron bridge](#).

Lower left - children on the north end of the [bridge](#) watching the high water.

Lower right - looking toward the [company pasture](#) with water pouring over the dam.

(Photos courtesy of Dorothy Paige Howell)
In 2011, this monument to the Flood victims was established in Converse along side the Pacolet River. The steel tower marks the depth of the river at this location during the Flood. Read the full details at Pacolet Flood Monument.